

REMARKS:

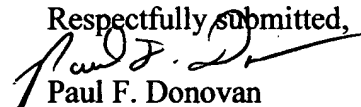
At the time of the final Office Action, claims 1-24 were pending. Claim 23 was allowed, claim 21 was objected to but was found to contain allowable subject matter, and claims 1-20, 22 and 24 were rejected. Pursuant to an Amendment After Final mailed January 13, 2004, claim 21 was amended and claims 1-24 remained pending. In response to the Amendment After Final, an Advisory Action was mailed February 4, 2004. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 21, 23 and 24 were allowed, but claims 1-20 and 22 remained rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment After Final, claims 1, 13 and 14 have been amended, and new claim 25 has been added. Claims 1-25 remain pending.

Allowance of claims 21, 23 and 24 is noted.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, in order to put this case into condition for allowance so as to avoid the necessity of filing an appeal, claims 1, 13 and 14 have simply been amended (without prejudice) to depend from allowed claim 24. Thus, claims 1, 13 and 14 are allowable. Claims 2-12, 15-20 and 22 depend from one of claims 1 and 14, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each. New claim 25 depends from allowed claim 24, and, therefore is also allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that can be addressed and expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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